

Attorney Docket No. 06618-706001  
Serial No. 09/682,593  
Amendment dated April 13, 2004  
Reply to Office Action dated December 16, 2003

REMARKS

The indication that claims 1, 4, 5, 12-16 and 19-28 are allowed is appreciatively noted. In response, these claims are retained. The remaining claims: 6-11, are cancelled herewith in order to obviate the remaining rejections thereto.

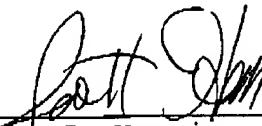
This should render all remaining claims in the case as allowable, and a notice of allowance is hence respectfully requested.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

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Respectfully submitted,

  
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